gether. In some it is wholly green, in others dark purple or black. In most it is variegated, as in our figure, with pale greenish stripes on a dark ground. The spadix is much shorter than the spathe, club shaped, rounded at the end, green, purple, black, or variegated, suddenly contracted into a narrow neck at base, and surrounded below by the stamens or germs. In the barren plants, its base is covered with conical, fleshy filaments, bearing from two to four circular anthers each. In the fertile plants, it is invested with roundish crowded germs, each tipt with a stigma. Plants which are perfectly monœcious, and which are the least common, have stamens below the germs. There are also frequently found irregular, reniform substances, much larger than the anthers, of which they seem to be a disease. The upper part of the spadix withers with the spathe, while the germs grow into a large compact bunch of shining scarlet berries.

Every part of the Arum, and especially the root, is violently acrid, and almost caustic. Applied to the tongue or to any secreting surface, it produces an effect like that of Cayenne pepper, but far more powerful, so much so, as to leave a permanent soreness of many hours' continuance. Of this any one may become satisfied by a simple

application of the root to his mouth. Its action does not readily extend through the cuticle, since the bruised root may be worn upon the external skin until it becomes dry, without occasioning pain or rubefaction.

The acrid property, which resides in this and other species of Arum, appears to depend upon a distinct vegetable principle in Chemistry, at present but little understood. It is extremely volatile, and disappears almost entirely by heat, drying, or simple exposure to the air. I have endeavoured, with but partial success, to obtain it in a separate state, or in any perceptible combination. The following were some of the methods by which it was attempted.

Portions of the fresh contused root were separately digested in water, in proof spirit, in alcohol, in ether, in olive oil and in vinegar. The infusions were tasted at different periods, but none of them had acquired the least acrimony from the plant.

The expressed juice of the root upon standing one minute had lost all its pungency.

A quantity of the bruised root was placed in a retort and covered with water. Heat was gradually applied, until a fluid began to collect in the receiver. This fluid had the peculiar odour of

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